GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:736
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
SHARE OF EXPORT OF HERBS IN GLOBAL MARKET
PALANIYAPPA GOUNDER KUMARASAMY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether contribution of India to the global export of herbs is just 2 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for such low export inspite of the rich flora available in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of herbal items in the future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

a) Although the global export figures of `Herbs` alone is not available it is estimated that the international market for Medicinal Plant Products is about Rs. 283030 crores per year, out of which the Indian share is Rs. 616.52 crores.As per the DGCIS data available, the export of Ayurvedic and Unani Herbs from India (ITC HS Code 12119026) has been Rs. 22.50 crores in 2000-2001 and Rs. 30.44 crores in 2001-2002 (conversion rate 1 US$ = Rs. 45.65). Also the export of crude drugs from India has been Rs. 315.77 crores in 2000-2001 and Rs. 445.47 crores in 2001-2002.

b) This is a newly developing sector. Awareness about Indian herbs is beginning to grow only recently.

c) The Government has established the National Medicinal Plant Board for integrated development of medicinal plant sector. The Department of Biotechnology has also supported research and development projects on medicinal and aromatic plants used in the country. The Government has been assisting CHEMEXCIL, an autonomous Export Promotion Council setup by the Department c Commerce through its Market Access Initiative Scheme by financing the conducting of market study and follow-up activities to promote exports. The Department of Commerce through its Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Programme, is also granting financial assistance to the industry for participating in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products. In order to give thrust to exports of Ayurvedic and Herbal products a new panel has also been constituted in Chemexcil.